

REMARKS

Claims 15-34 are pending in the application.

Reconsideration of the rejection of 15, 18, 20, 22-31 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 2,565,445 to Winslow et al is respectfully requested.

Claim 15 is directed to a fuel filter comprising a filter housing,

at least one substantially flat filter element contained in the housing, *the at least one substantially flat filter element having a clean side and a dirty side which are both substantially planar and are situated essentially parallel to each other,*

a fuel inlet delivering fuel to be filtered into the housing and a fuel outlet delivering filtered fuel from the housing, and

at least one wall encapsulating a side of the filter element, wherein the filter element and the at least one wall together constitute a filter insert which is inserted into the housing.

Winslow et al discloses a filter housing 11, filter element 41, housing 11, an inlet 14, an outlet 17, encapsulating walls 29, 37, a flow baffle 56, a block-shaped housing part and a cover 24 that closes the housing part, and a distribution stabilizer 56 on the inlet side.

Winslow et al lacks a flat filter element with planar and parallel sides, as described in the specification in [0006] and as recited in amended claim 15. Furthermore, Winslow et al lacks a flat design of a fuel filter having the fuel inlet and fuel outlet situated at one end of the flat fuel filter or at opposite ends of the flat fuel filter as described in the specification in [0011] and recited in the dependent claims.

Therefore, Applicant believes that the present invention cannot be anticipated by Winslow and the current claims are distinguished over the prior art. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 15-22, 25, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,620,599 to Hopkins et al and of claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hopkins et al is respectfully requested.

Hopkins et al is relied upon for discloses a filter housing 200, filter element 300, an inlet 202, an outlet 204, an encapsulating wall 400, filter material 302/308, and a block-shaped housing part 206 and a cover 208.

Hopkins et al lacks a flat filter element with planar and parallel sides, as described in the specification in [0006] and as recited in amended claim 15. Furthermore, Hopkins et al lacks a flat design of a fuel filter having the fuel inlet and fuel outlet situated at one end of the flat fuel filter or at opposite ends of the flat fuel filter as described in the specification in [0011] and as recited in dependent claims.

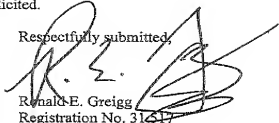
Therefore, Applicant believes that the present invention cannot be anticipated by Hopkins et al and the current claims are distinguished over the prior art. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The above amendments are being made to place the application in better condition for examination.

Appl. No. 10/565,381
Amdt. dated August 20, 2008
Reply to Final OA of May 20, 2008

Entry of the amendment is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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